

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3445

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2001

EXPLORATION OF COAL RESERVES

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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a): the estimated quantity of coal reserves in the country at present;
- (b): the details of exploration of coal reserves carried out during the last three years and till date;
- (c): whether any practical study has been conducted for undertaking coal mining projects;
- (d): if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e): the steps taken to implement the same?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

(a): The total coal reserves of the country, as estimated by Geological Survey of India (GSI) as on 1-1-2001, upto 1200 M. Depth are 213.90 Billion Tonnes.

The category-wise break up is as under:-

Proved	84.41 Billion Tonnes	(39.4%)
Indicated	90.24 -do-	(42.2%)
Inferred	39.25 -do-	(18.4%)

Total	213.90 Billion Tonnes
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(b): CMPDIL conducts detailed exploration in CIL command areas in potential blocks (As identified through regional/promotional exploration, in the last 3 years i.e. from 1997-98 to 1999-2000). Detailed exploration has been conducted in number of coal blocks in about 20 coalfields in the states of Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh and Orissa. A total of 7.69 lakhs meters of detailed drilling had been conducted in CIL command area during the past 3 years leading to the preparation of 85 geological reports. A total of 11.87 Billion Tonnes of coal reserves have been established, out of which 10.28 Billion Tonnes are in 'proved' category and 1.59 Billion Tonnes are coking coal.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d) & (e): Before undertaking any coal mining project, lot of studies are undertaken including:

- Drilling (for preparation of geological reports)
- Preparation of main project report and
- Preparation of advance action proposal
- Some times preparation of RCE/RPR
- Such studies are being done continuously.

For achieving the projected demand of coal and for compensating the depletion of existing mines, new projects need to be opened up. CMPDIL has been entrusted with the job to carry out such studies and accordingly depending upon region wise demand of coal a number of new mines have been envisaged to be taken up in the next Five Year Plan(Xth Plan).

As many a 85 new mines are likely to be taken up for implementation in coming years and it is expected that the coal production from these mine shall be about 85 Million Tonnes during Xth Plan period.